

ITALIAN Rhapsody  
AND OTHER POEMS OF ITALY  
*By* ROBERT UNDERWOOD JOHNSON

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999  
2

STAR SONG. By Robert Underwood Johnson.

When sunset flows into golden glows,  
And the breath of the night is new,  
Love, find afar yon yearning star -  
That is my thought of you.

And when your eye doth scan the sky  
Your lonely lattice through,  
Choose any one, from sun to sun -  
That is my thought of you.

And when you wake at the morning's break  
To rival rose and dew,  
The star that stays in the leaping rays -  
That is my thought of you.

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WILL BE 81 TOMORROW.  
Dr. Robert Underwood Johnson.



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# DELLA ROBBIA

## DR. JOHNSON, AT 81, FINDS POETRY TONIC

Former Ambassador to Italy  
Says Nation Needs Verse  
to Spur Imagination.

## HIS BIRTHDAY TOMORROW

Writes Tribute to Roosevelt,  
but Views Recognition of  
Russia as Mistake.

His Own So

## MALLARANNY BEACH,

Nothing is here but beauty: a blue dome,  
Cloudless, in Ireland the land of cloud;  
A bluer sea, not clamoring with the loud  
Homeric music of the waves that roam  
The rocks and inlets white with angry foam,  
But gentle as a lion's sleep; yon proud  
Blue sloping headland, firm as though it plowed  
The yielding sea, as the keen share the loam.  
  
Twixt here and home nothing but beauty lies  
Across the lonely leagues from land to land.  
Ocean, thou confidant of smiles and sighs,  
Tell her who lingers on another strand  
That I forget not, but as evening dies  
I write a name of beauty on the sand.

ROBERT UNDERWOOD JOHNSON

## A SONG OF AGE.

What is it that makes a lifetime?  
To hold the manly strength  
Of youth's rejoicing strife-time  
Till it reaches the Psalmist length,  
Is it worth the strain of the long years' pain  
To keep the body alive?  
Would you rather be old at eighty  
Or young at thirty-five?  
  
The fairest tree in the orchard,  
That makes the Maytime bright,  
By pest and the tempest tortured,  
May droop with early blight.  
And many a flame of a promising name  
That men thought might survive  
To light the world at eighty,  
Dies down at thirty-five.  
  
But if still the heart beat steady,  
With Love as its only note,  
And the world's need finds you ready  
To pull in the common boat;  
And you've learned that Beauty's the helpmate of Duty  
To keep the soul alive:  
Would you rather be young at eighty  
Than old at thirty-five?

ROBERT UNDERWOOD JOHNSON.

Aug. 29 1911  
14 P.M.

## ITALIAN RHAPSODY AND OTHER POEMS OF ITALY

### THE OLD VALENTINE.

When you were at your fair fourteen,  
And February was at his  
(Ah, nothing sweeter could have been,  
As nothing sweeter is),  
There came among your valentines  
One all made up of loving lines  
With Cupid's darts  
Through bleeding hearts  
(Were his initials accidental?)  
You kissed the rhymes  
A hundred times  
And never thought them sentimental.

At forty—life's most lonely age—  
When valentines come not,  
Go seek again that treasured page  
Unseen but unforget.

One poignant moment let a tear  
Flow for a boy's love so sincere:

That tribute give  
Whereby shall live  
The lost, so tender and so gentle.

Thank heaven that still  
'Mid prose and ill,  
You can, in dream, be sentimental.

ROBERT UNDERWOOD JOHNSON.

The Author's  
Previous Poems  
♦

SAINT-GAUDENS: AN ODE, AND OTHER VERSE. By ROBERT UNDERWOOD JOHNSON. Published by the Author, 70 Fifth Avenue, New York: 16mo. Pp. 361. Price \$2.00, postage prepaid. This is the fourth edition of the author's collected poems, and includes the volumes "The Winter Hour" and "Songs of Liberty," now separately out of print.

POEMS OF WAR AND PEACE. By ROBERT UNDERWOOD JOHNSON. Second edition, with many new poems, including The Panama Ode, The Corridors of Congress, Rheims, Embattled France, The Sword of Lafayette, The New Slavery, The Crowned Republic, and other Poems of the Great War. New York: Published by the Author at 70 Fifth Avenue. 16mo. Pp. 114. Price \$1.50, postage prepaid.

NOTE: The price of the present volume is \$1.00, postage prepaid.

20234

# ITALIAN RHAPSODY AND OTHER POEMS OF ITALY

BY

ROBERT UNDERWOOD JOHNSON

MEMBER OF THE AMERICAN ACADEMY OF  
ARTS AND LETTERS

AUTHOR OF "SAINT-GAUDENS: AN ODE, AND OTHER VERSE,"  
"POEMS OF WAR AND PEACE"; CO-EDITOR "BATTLES  
AND LEADERS OF THE CIVIL WAR"

Born Jan 17



1853

NEW YORK:  
PUBLISHED BY THE AUTHOR  
AT 70 FIFTH AVENUE

1917

## R. U. Johnson's Will Filed

Robert Underwood Johnson, poet, editor and former Ambassador to Italy, named his daughter, Mrs. Agnes Johnson Holden of 327 Lexington Avenue, principal beneficiary in his will, which was filed yesterday in Surrogate's Court. The petition valued his estate at less than \$10,000.

OCT 30 1937

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**ROBERT UNDERWOOD JOHNSON**

"Dead is old Greece," they mourned ere yet arose  
Dear Italy! The sound of thy soft name      3  
Forgive us, Italy, who have loved thee long      35  
Gay or gloomy with her skies  
My perfumed jasmine-tent commands      1  
Not in the five-domed wonder  
Of Time and Nature still the fairest daughter      13  
Once, when I saw the tears upon your vines      26  
One forgets not the first dead he sorrowed over      29  
Rome, symbol of all change, oh, change not here      15  
The wind is Winter, though the sun be Spring      23  
They halted at the terrace wall      28  
This is the loggia Browning loved      11  
Thou of a poet's blood, and many a tie      17  
We lingered at Domo d'Ossola      30  
When sunset flows into golden glows      31  
Yonder's the window my poet would sit in      24  
You who were once bereft of Rome      19

12      1  
3      35  
35      1  
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15      15  
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19      19



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IN AN ARBOR, ASOLO

By Percy G. Pinkerton

My perfumed jasmine-tent commands  
An outlook vast along the lands.  
Northward, green hills confront my  
gaze,  
Shrouded in filmy morning haze.  
Their smooth sides take a deeper  
dye  
As the red sun deserts the sky,  
When clouds, like poppy-petals, fall  
And fade around a purple wall  
Whose top one fain would tread <sup>and</sup>

OBAN SE

IC NEWS

ship God according to his hearts desire  
sure we are still fighting the religious  
wars of the Middle Ages? In our  
country there is no excuse for big-  
otry or intolerance. Let us fight it  
wherever it appears. Perhaps I over-  
estimate the importance of my can-  
tankerous correspondents. The radio  
audience is so large that it must  
decrease rapidly include a certain num-  
ber of cranks and free-thinking num-  
ber of scamps and free-thinkers. Per-  
haps I overestimate the importance of my can-  
not the importance of preaching and  
teaching tolerance on all possible  
occasions."

\* \* \*

As his own publisher, Robert Underwood Johnson is issuing from his office in New York a volume of his hitherto uncollected poems entitled "The Pact of Honor and Other Poems Grave or Gay." They will include the title poem, apropos of the Briand-Kellogg Treaty; "The New Olympians" (the aviators); "The Hall of Fame, at Night"; personal poems on Eleonora Duse, Raquel Meller, Henrik Ibsen; impressions of travel in Italy, France and Switzerland; and "A Grave at Stockbridge," dealing in part with the subject of immortality. Lighter poems in the collection are "The Young Chevalier," the ballad of Lindbergh, "The Amateur Circus" and "A Sentimental Journey in Ireland."

E. F. E.

## TO ALL WHO LOVE ITALY

### STREPHON TO CHLOE.

Dear, not tomorrow but today  
Give me the laggard word I crave  
Love is no jewel put away  
In velvet silence; wear it brave  
Upon your bosom, joy-entwined.  
Oh, hasten, hasten to be kind.

Come, honor love with use today;  
Make it a gift and not a debt.  
See how the hours speed away;  
Shall each be laden with regret?  
Beauty was made not for the blind;  
Then hasten, hasten to be kind.

I suffer now, but how much more  
Shall you, when, in Time's retrospect,  
You shall your cruelty deplore

On which your happiness was  
wrecked?

Lest love shall leave you far behind,  
Hasten, beloved, to be kind.

ROBERT UNDERWOOD JOHNSON

Dec 4 1928

### Johnson Reads His Sonnet.

Then Robert Underwood Johnson, wearing the academic robes bestowed on him when he received the degree of Doctor of Letters from New York University, read the following sonnet written by him for the occasion:

HENRIK IBSEN.

A Tributes of an Idealist. 3/21/28  
y for bare forms of thought should we contend?  
I claim him realist; I hail him here,  
truthful, acute, alive, profound, sincere.  
Archlight of souls where vice and virtue bleed,  
All of the faltering conscience lest it bend  
ore the blast of circumstance, in fear.  
Iconoclast of cant; ironic seer;  
enemy to the people, but their friend.  
Nothing of Dante is not far to seek  
en his grim faithful surgery we see  
idng wrong from right and strong from weak.  
dred to Sophocles he well may be,  
en to the Three Fates of the ancient Greek  
adds a fourth, in man's heredity.  
hen came more Norwegian music,  
cluding with the Norwegian na-

## ST. MARK'S REVISITED

Robert Underwood Johnson

Let me stand here where first I saw of old  
This triple wonder - the supreme surprise,  
However often it may greet the eyes  
Of sated travelers; see the sunlit gold  
Beneath the encrusted arches like a mold  
Of dashing waves; fancy the gray domes! rise  
From their poised flight, but to less heavenly skies -  
All lovelier than all poets ever told.

How feminine she is, this Orient Queen!  
Trailing her skirts of marbled lace along  
Beside the Piazzetta, while the Tower,  
Like Strength defending Beauty, stands serene.  
'Tis the world's dream, this dream of Joy and Power,  
Caught in the permanence of Art and Song.

...The New York Times, Jan. 12, 1929.

## “A CITY WITH A SOUL”

(FLORENCE)

GAY or gloomy with her skies,  
Gray Paris like an opal lies  
Sparkling on the front of France.  
Avignon doth hold a lance  
In a tourney-list with Nîmes.  
Fair Seville basks in helpless dream  
Of conquest, as in cagèd air  
Dreams the tamed lion of his lair.  
Regal Genoa still adorns  
Her ancient throne; and Pisa mourns.  
Now we traverse holy ground  
Where three miracles are found:  
One of beauty—when with dyes  
Of her own sunset Venice vies.  
One of beauty and of power—  
Rome, the crumbled Babel-tower  
Of centuries piled on centuries—  
Scant refuge from Oblivion's seas  
That swept about her. And the third?—  
O heart, fly homeward like a bird,  
And look, from Bellosguardo's goal,  
Upon a city with a soul!  
Who that has climbed that heavenly height  
When all the west was gold with light,

And nightingales adown the slope  
 To listening Love were lending hope,  
 Till they by vesper bells were drowned,  
 As though by censers filled with sound—  
 Who—who would wish a worthier end  
 To every journey? or not blend  
 With those who reverently count  
 This their Transfiguration Mount?

—From "The Winter Hour."

### SAVORING JOY.

Haste not to joy: harbor the sweet  
 suspense.  
 The sun surprises not the world with  
 light  
 But dawns with ever-lessening reti-  
 cence.  
 Nor is the starry curtain of the night  
 Let fall ungently. Yon full river  
 flood  
 Paused often at some meditative  
 pool.  
 The rose holds back its glory in the  
 bud  
 And Nature's temple has its vesti-  
 bule.  
 So let your wooing be: first, with  
 such look  
 That Fate must wait till your one  
 word be spoken;  
 Then choice; then tenderness; and  
 then the token  
 Of clasping hands, caressing and  
 caressed.  
 When you have turned these pages of  
 Love's book  
 The loved one may peruse with you  
 the rest.

ROBERT UNDERWOOD JOHNSON.

## ITALIAN RHAPSODY \*

## I

DEAR Italy! The sound of thy soft name  
Soothes me with balm of Memory and Hope.  
Mine, for the moment, height and sweep and slope  
That once were mine. Supreme is still the aim  
    To flee the cold and gray  
    Of our December day,  
And rest where thy clear spirit burns with unconsuming  
    flame.

## II

There are who deem remembered beauty best,  
    And thine, imagined, fairer is than sight  
Of all the charms of other realms confessed,  
    Thou miracle of sea and land and light.  
    Was it lest, envying thee,  
    The world unhappy be,  
Benignant Heaven gave to all the all-consoling Night?

\* Read before the Mother Chapter of the Phi Beta Kappa Fraternity, William and Mary College, February 10, 1902.

## III

Remembered beauty best? Who reason so?

Not lovers, yearning to the same dumb star

That doth disdain their passion—who, afar,  
Seek touch and voice in velvet winds and low.

No, storied Italy,

Not thine that heresy,

Thou who thyself art fairer far than Fancy e'er can  
show.

## IV

To me thou art an ever-brooding spell;

An old enchantment, exorcised of wrong;

A beacon, whereagainst the wings of Song  
Are bruised so, they cannot fly to tell;

A mistress, at whose feet

A myriad singers meet,

To find thy beauty the despair of measures full and  
sweet.

## V

Of old, ere caste or custom froze the heart,

What tales of thine did Chaucer re-indite,—

Of Constance, and Griselda, and the plight

Of pure Cecilia,—all with joyous art!

Oh, to have journeyed down  
To Canterbury town,  
And known, from lips that touched thy robe, that triad  
of renown !

## VI

Fount of Romance whereat our Shakspere drank !  
Through him the loves of all are linked to thee  
By Romeo's ardor, Juliet's constancy.  
He sets the peasant in the royal rank ;  
Shows under mask and paint  
Kinship of knave and saint,  
And plays on stolid man with Prospero's wand and  
Ariel's prank.

## VII

Another English foster-child hadst thou  
When Milton from the breast of thy delight  
Drew inspiration. With a vestal's vow  
He fed the flame caught from thy sacred light.  
And when upon him lay  
The long eclipse of day,  
Thou wert the memory-hoarded treasure of his doomed  
sight.

## VIII

Name me a poet who has trod thy soil;  
He is thy lover, ever hastening back,  
With thee forgetting weariness and toil,  
The nightly sorrow for the daily lack.

How oft our lyric race  
Looked last upon thy face!

Oh, would that I were worthy thus to die in thine  
embrace!

## IX

Oh, to be kin to Keats, but as a part  
Of the same Roman earth!—to sleep, unknown,  
Not far from Shelley of the virgin heart,  
Where not one tomb is envious of a throne;  
Where the proud pyramid,  
To brighter glory bid,  
Gives Cestius his longed-for fame, marking immortal  
Art.

## X

Or, in loved Florence, to repose beside  
Our trinity of singers! Fame enough  
To neighbor lordly Landor, noble Clough,  
And her, our later sibyl, sorrow-eyed.

Oh, tell me—not their arts,  
But their Italian hearts  
Won for their dust that narrow oval, than the world  
more wide !

## XI

So might I lie where Browning should have lain,  
My “Italy” for all the world to read,  
Like his on the palazzo. For thy pain  
In losing from thy rosary that bead,  
England accords thee room  
Around his minster tomb—  
A province conquered of thy soul, and not an Arab  
slain !

## XII

Then take these lines, and add to them the lay,  
All inarticulate, I to thee indite :  
The sudden longing on the sunniest day,  
The happy sighing in the stormiest night,  
The tears of love that creep  
From eyes unwont to weep,  
Full with remembrance, blind with joy, and with  
devotion deep.

## XIII

Absence from thee is such as men endure  
Between the glad betrothal and the bride;  
Or like the years that Youth, intense and sure,  
From his ambition to his goal must bide.  
And if no more I may  
Mount to Fiesole . . .

Oh, then were Memory meant for those to whom is  
Hope denied.

## XIV

Show me a lover who hath drunk by night  
Thy beauty-potion, as the grape the dew:  
'T were little wonder he were poet too,  
With wine of song in unexpected might,  
While moonlit cloister calls  
With plashy fountain-falls,  
Or darkened Arno moves to music with its mirrorred  
light.

## XV

Who can withstand thee? What distress or care  
But yields to Naples, or that long day-dream  
We know as Venice, where alone more fair  
Noon is than night; where every lapping stream

Wooes with a soft caress  
Our new-world weariness,

And every ripple smiles with joy at sight of scene so rare.

## XVI

The mystery of thy charm—ah, who hath guessed?  
'T was ne'er divined by day or shown in sleep;  
Yet sometimes Music, floating from her steep,  
Holds to our lips a chalice brimmed and blest:  
Then know we that thou art  
Of the Ideal part—  
Of Man's one thirst that is not quenched, drink he  
howe'er so deep.

## XVII

Thou human-hearted land, whose revels hold  
Man in communion with the antique days,  
And summon him from prosy greed to ways  
Where Youth is beckoning to the Age of Gold;  
How thou dost hold him near  
And whisper in his ear  
Of the lost Paradise that lies beyond the alluring haze!

## XVIII

In tears I tossed my coin from Trevi's edge,—  
A coin unsordid as a bond of love,—  
And, with the instinct of the homing dove,  
I gave to Rome my rendezvous and pledge.  
And when imperious Death  
Has quenched my flame of breath,  
Oh, let me join the faithful shades that throng that  
fount above.

## LOVE IN ITALY

THEY halted at the terrace wall ;  
Below, the towered city lay ;  
The valley in the moonlight's thrall  
Was silent in a swoon of May.  
As hand to hand spoke one soft word  
Beneath the friendly ilex-tree,  
They knew not, of the flame that stirred,  
What part was Love, what Italy.

They knew what makes the moon more bright  
Where Beatrice and Juliet are,—  
The sweeter perfume in the night,  
The lovelier starlight in the star ;  
And more that glowing hour did prove,  
Beneath the sheltering ilex-tree,—  
That Italy transfigures Love,  
As Love transfigures Italy.

## SALVINI

"DEAD is old Greece," they mourned ere yet arose  
This Greek—this oak of old Achaian graft  
Seed-sown where westward tempests wept and  
laughed,

As now when some great gust of heaven blows  
From lair levantine. How the giant grows!—  
Not to lone ruin of a withered shaft,  
But quaffing life in every leafy draught,—  
Fathered by Storm and mothered by Repose.

Nay, doubt the Greeks are gone till, this green  
crest

In splendor fallen, round the wrack shall be  
Prolonged, like memories of a noble guest,  
The phantom glory of the actor's day.

Then, musing on Olympus, men shall say  
The myth of Jove took rise from lesser majesty.

**THE HOUR OF AWE**

Not in the five-domed wonder  
Where the soul of Venice lies,  
When the sun cleaves the gloom asunder  
With pathways to Paradise,  
And the organ's melodious thunder  
Summons you to the skies ;

Not in that rarest hour,  
When over the Arno's rush  
The City of Flowers' flower  
Looms in the sunset flush,  
And the poignant stroke from the tower  
Pierces the spirit's hush ;

Not Rome's high vault's devising  
That builded the heavens in,  
When you know not the anthem's rising  
From the song of the cherubin,  
Where, sight and soul surprising,  
Dusk utters your dearest sin :

Not these—nor the star-sown splendor,  
Nor the deep wood's mystery,  
Nor the sullen storm's surrender  
To the ranks of the leaping sea,  
Nor the joy of the springtime tender  
On Nature's breast to be;

But to find in a woman's weeping  
— The look you have longed to find,  
And know that in Time's safe-keeping,  
Through all the ages blind,  
Was Love, like a winged seed, sleeping,  
For you and the waiting wind.

TITIAN'S TWO LOVES, IN THE BORGHESE

ONE forgets not the first dead he sorrowed over ;  
One forgets not the first kiss of the first lover.  
Not the dust of ages could remembrance cover  
How in Titian's golden kingdom first I strayed.

Oh, that Roman morning's azure, softly sifting  
Through the gray, the while the rapt eye caught the  
rifting  
Of the sun's rich fire where molten mists were drifting,  
As one looks upon an opal gently swayed.

Ah ! but in the palace there was sun more golden !  
Art for once to Nature was no more beholden.  
Man to his belovèd had the passion olden  
Sung in color, and his mighty Love grew Fame.

For I guessed, while hotly others were contending  
Which was Love Divine, that each to each was lending  
Supplemental graces for a perfect blending—  
That to paint one twofold woman was his aim.

16 *TITIAN'S TWO LOVES, IN THE BORGHESE*

One without the other's beauty were but torso:  
Human needs divine, ah, yes, and—maybe more so—  
By divine is needed. (Singing down the Corso  
I, elate, enthralled, went, happy just to be!)

. . . . .

Yet till thee at last I knew—each blended feature  
Where the two Loves meet in rightly balanced nature—  
Never had I known a tithe of Titian's creature:  
God, the master limner, painted both in thee.

## BROWNING AT ASOLO

(INSCRIBED TO HIS FRIEND MRS. ARTHUR BRONSON)

THIS is the loggia Browning loved,  
High on the flank of the friendly town;  
These are the hills that his keen eye roved,  
The green like a cataract leaping down  
To the plain that his pen gave new renown.

There to the West what a range of blue!—  
The very background Titian drew  
To his peerless Loves. O tranquil scene!  
Who than thy poet fondlier knew  
The peaks and the shore and the lore between?

See! yonder 's his Venice—the valiant Spire,  
Highest one of the perfect three,  
Guarding the others: the Palace choir,  
The Temple flashing with opal fire—  
Bubble and foam of the sunlit sea.

Yesterday he was part of it all—  
Sat here, discerning cloud from snow  
In the flush of the Alpine afterglow,  
Or mused on the vineyard whose wine-stirred row  
Meets in a leafy bacchanal.

Listen a moment—how oft did he!—  
To the bells from Fontalto's distant tower  
Leading the evening in . . . ah, me!  
Here breathes the whole soul of Italy  
As one rose breathes with the breath of the bower.

Sighs were meant for an hour like this  
When joy is keen as a thrust of pain.  
Do you wonder the poet's heart should miss  
This touch of rapture in Nature's kiss  
And dream of Asolo ever again?

“Part of it yesterday,” we moan?  
Nay, he is part of it now, no fear.  
What most we love we are that alone.  
[ His body lies under the Minster stone,  
But the love of the warm heart lingers here.

“LA MURA,” ASOLO, JUNE 3, 1892.

## TO ONE WHO NEVER GOT TO ROME

(EDMUND CLARENCE STEDMAN)

[ON his long-deferred and only trip to Italy Stedman entered the country from the north for what proved to be a very brief sojourn, for soon after reaching Venice he was suddenly obliged to return to America. It remained his cherished desire to see the Eternal City, and the Roman Committee of the Keats-Shelley Memorial long hoped that he might be present at the proposed dedication of the Keats House, contemplated for the 23d of February, 1908. He died five weeks before that day, when the lines which follow were written. As the active and devoted Chairman of the American Committee he took a leading part in this project. Probably his last words written for publication on a literary topic were in praise of the two poets, to which he added a transcription from "Ariel," his ode on Shelley.]

You who were once bereft of Rome  
With but the Apennines between,  
And went no more beyond the foam,  
But loved your Italy at home  
As others loved her seen :

You knew each old imperial shaft  
With sculpture laureled to the blue ;  
Where martyr bled and tyrant laughed ;  
Where Horace his Falernian quaffed,  
And where the vintage grew.

The Forum's half-unopened book  
    You would have pondered well and long;  
And loved St. Peter's misty look,  
With vesper chantings in some nook  
    Of far-receding song.

Oft had you caught the silver gleams  
    Of Roman fountains. To your art  
They add no music. Trevi teems  
With not more free or bounteous streams  
    Than did your generous heart.

I hoped that this Muse-hallowed day  
    Might find your yearning dream come true:  
That you might see the moonlight play  
On ilex and on palace gray  
    As 't were alone for you;—

That your white age might disappear  
    Within the whiteness of the night,  
While the late strollers, lending ear  
To your young joy, would halt and cheer  
    At such a happy wight;—

That you,—whose toil was never done,—  
Physicianed by the Land of Rest,  
Might, like a beggar in the sun,  
Watch idly the green lizard run  
From out his stony nest;—

That you, from that high parapet  
That crowns the graceful Spanish Stairs,  
(Whose cadence, as to music set,  
Moving like measured minuet,  
Would charm your new-world cares),

Might see the shrine you helped to save;  
And yonder blest of cypresses,  
That proud above your poets wave.  
Warder of all our song, you gave  
What loyalty to these!

The path to Adonais' bed,  
That pilgrims ever smoother wear,  
Who could than you more fitly tread?—  
Or with more right from Ariel dead  
The dark acanthus bear?

Alas! your footstep could not keep  
Your fond hope's rendezvous, brave soul!  
Yet, if our last thoughts ere we sleep  
Be couriers across the deep  
To greet us at the goal,

Who knows but now, aloof from ills,  
The heavenly vision that you see—  
The towers on the sapphire hills,  
The song, the golden light—fulfils  
Your dream of Italy!

## THE SPANISH STAIRS

[It will be recalled that the house in which Keats died adjoins the Spanish Stairs in Rome. It has been proposed to remove the fountain below them to make room for the tramway in the piazza.]

ROME, symbol of all change, oh, change not here!

Thou, ever avid of beauty, who shall say  
Thou hast forsworn it in a vain display  
And blare of discord, as though eager ear  
Listening for nightingale heard chanticleer?  
Oh, leave these sunny stairs, that float and stray  
From fountain blithe and flowers' rich array  
To beckoning bells and chanting nuns anear.

Of all the dead that loved them, hear that voice  
Whose sorrow and last silence once they knew,  
Whose spirit guards them with his flaming theme,  
The immortal joy of beauty. Oh, rejoice,  
And stay thy hand: that future ages, too,  
By them may mount to heaven, like Jacob in his  
dream.

PIAZZA DI SPAGNA,  
St. Agnes' Eve, 1903.

## THE NAME WRIT IN WATER

(PIAZZA DI SPAGNA, ROME)

*The Spirit of the Fountain speaks:*

YONDER 's the window my poet would sit in  
While my song murmured of happier days ;  
Mine is the water his name has been writ in,  
Sure and immortal my share in his praise.

Gone are the pilgrims whose green wreaths here hung  
for him,—

Gone from their fellows like bubbles from foam ;  
Long shall outlive them the songs have been sung for  
him ;

Mine is eternal—or Rome were not Rome.

Far on the mountain my fountain was fed for him,  
Bringing soft sounds that his nature loved best :  
Sighing of pines that had fain made a bed for him ;  
Seafaring rills, on their musical quest ;

Bells of the fairies at eve, that I rang for him ;  
Nightingale's glee, he so well understood ;  
Chant of the dryads at dawn, that I sang for him ;  
Swish of the snake at the edge of the wood.

Little he knew 'twixt his dreaming and sleeping,  
The while his sick fancy despaired of his fame,  
What glory I held in my loverly keeping:  
Listen! my waters will whisper his name.

## *SPRING AT THE VILLA CONTI*

OF Time and Nature still the fairest daughter,  
    Low-voiced Repose! Here thou dost ever dwell,  
    While Fancy wills no more to wander on.  
With how few simples dost thou steep the sense,  
    Holding in soft suspense,  
Like pauses in the tolling of a bell,  
    The beauty coming and the beauty gone.  
Nothing is here but woods and water,  
    Spaces, and stone, and a sculptor's wit  
        Simply to fashion it  
Into one long line of many niches,  
Whose fountains are fed by the rushing riches  
    That, bowl to bowl, from the woodland pool  
    Fall in a rhythm clear and strong,  
    Singing to Nature her eldest song,  
        Prattling their paradox—restfully restless.  
O March, with never a moment zestless,  
    Nor the sun too warm nor the shade too cool!  
O May and the music of birds now nestless!  
    Come soon and brood o'er the woodland pool!

(For lover or nightingale who can wait?

Whenever he cometh he cometh late.)

The light plays over the ilex green,  
Turning to silver the somber sheen,

And Spring in the heart of the day doth dwell  
As the thought of a loved one dwells with me,

And only three cypresses to tell  
"This is not Heaven, but Italy."

FRASCATI, March, 1903.

## COMO IN APRIL

THE wind is Winter, though the sun be Spring:  
The icy rills have scarce begun to flow;  
The birds unconfidently fly and sing.

As on the land once fell the northern foe,  
The hostile mountains from the passes fling  
Their vandal blasts upon the lake below.

Not yet the round clouds of the Maytime cling  
Above the world's blue wonder's curving show,  
And tempt to linger with their lingering.

Yet doth each slope a vernal promise know:  
See, mounting yonder, white as angel's wing,  
A snow of bloom to meet the bloom of snow.

Love, need we more than our imagining  
To make the whole year May? What though  
The wind be Winter if the heart be Spring?

## THE VINES THAT MISSED THE BEES

(TO COUNT COSIMO RUCELLAI OF FLORENCE WITH A  
COPY OF HIS ANCESTOR GIOVANNI RUCELLAI'S  
POEM "THE BEES")

ONCE, when I saw the tears upon your vines  
You told me they were "weeping"—but for what?  
I find their secret in your kinsman's lines:  
*They missed the honeyed music he has caught.*

FLORENCE, April, 1906.

## THE POET IN THE CHILDREN'S EYES

(TO COUNTESS EDITH RUCELLAI, DESCENDANT OF JOSEPH  
RODMAN DRAKE,—IN HER ALBUM, CONTAINING  
LINES BY BROWNING, LONGFELLOW,  
LOWELL, AND OTHERS)

THOU of a poet's blood, and many a tie  
    Of kin or friendship with the singing race:  
How shall I dare, without a throb or sigh,  
    Near these lost bards beloved my name to place !

One wish I offer, though with halting fingers :  
    That in thy brood, of eager eyes divine,  
The poet that within the mother lingers  
    May find a voice worthy the deathless line

FLORENCE, April, 1906.

## FAREWELL TO ITALY

WE lingered at Domo d'Ossola—  
    Like a last, reluctant guest—  
Where the gray-green tide of Italy  
    Flows up to a snowy crest.

The world from that Alpine shoulder  
    Yearns toward the Lombard plain—  
The hearts that come, with rapture,  
    The hearts that go, with pain.

Afar were the frets of Milan ;  
    Below, the enchanted lakes ;  
And—*was* it the mist of the evening,  
    Or the mist that the memory makes ?

We gave to the pale horizon  
    The Naples that evening gives ;  
We reckoned where Rome lies buried,  
    And we felt where Florence lives.

And as Hope bends low at parting  
For a death-remembered tone,  
We searched the land that Beauty  
And Love have made their own.

We would take of her hair some ringlet,  
Some keepsake from her breast,  
And catch of her plaintive music  
The strain that is tenderest.

So we strolled in the yellow gloaming  
(Our speech with musing still)  
Till the noise of the militant village  
Fell faint on Calvary Hill.

And scarcely our mood was broken  
Of near-impending loss  
To find at the bend of the pathway  
A station of the Cross.

And up through the green aisle climbing  
(Each shrine like a counted bead),  
We heard from above the swaying  
And mystical chant of the creed.

Then the dead seemed the only living,  
And the real seemed the wraith,

And we yielded ourselves to the vision  
We saw with the eye of Faith.

Then she said, "Let us go no farther:  
'T is fit that we make farewell  
While forest and lake and mountain  
Are under the vesper spell."

As we rested, the leafy silence  
Broke like a cloud at play,  
And a browned and burdened woman  
Passed, singing, down the way.

'T was a song of health and labor,—  
Of childlike gladness, blent  
With the patience of the toiler  
That tyrants call content.

"Nay, this is the word we have waited,"  
I said, "that a year and a sea  
From now, in our doom of exile,  
Shall echo of Italy."

Just then what a burst from the bosquet—  
As a bird might have found its soul!  
And each by the halt of the heart-throb  
Knew 't was the rossignol.

Then we drew to each other nearer  
And drank at the gray wall's verge  
The sad, sweet song of lovers,—  
Their passion and their dirge.

And the carol of Toil below us  
And the pæan of Prayer above  
Were naught to the song of Sorrow,  
For under the sorrow was Love.

•      •      •      •      •

Alas! for the dear remembrance  
We chose for an amulet:  
The one that is left to keep it—  
Ah! how can he forget?

## THE CROWNED REPUBLIC

## I

FORGIVE us, Italy, who have loved thee long,  
Daughter of Beauty, Cynosure of Song,  
That we who knew thee fair should not have known  
thee strong.

For Beauty is no weakling, taking odds  
From earthly Power and cringing at its nods,  
But giver of sovereign laws to immemorial gods.

She is no mere contriver of design,  
Of thrilling color or uplifting line;  
She sings within the soul a music all divine.

And when she sets the ardent youth aflame  
With duty, brooking no unworthy aim,  
She is but Justice honored by another name.

## II

We should have read the roster of thy great  
Who from mismated fragments inchoate  
The fair mosaic made of thine harmonious state;

Alike in nothing but in love of thee  
While thou wert yet a dream of Liberty,  
They gave thee all they were and all they hoped  
to be :—

He of Savoy, first man and then a king;  
He of Caprera, armed with David's sling;  
He of Turin, who won with wise imagining;

He of the Tuscan vineyards, firm as steel;  
And he of Genoa, priest of the common weal,  
And he whose voice to Venice was a tocsin-peal.

O land for whom thy sons were fain to die  
As lovers are to live! No obloquy  
Their secrets could unlock, their purpose turn awry.

In thy deep dungeons Freedom grew to might,  
Nourished by darkness as the rose by light.  
Would tyrants conquer Thought: they must abolish  
Night.

Behind the bars where Settembrini dwelt,  
Beside the chains whose scars Poerio felt,  
Above the beds bereaved where dauntless women knelt,

Thine image, as in Dante's vision, shone—  
The Italy that some day would be one,  
When alien yoke was cleft and cruel sands were run.

### III

Now, when the old oppressor of thy land  
Had weakly chosen by his side to stand  
Who holds the torch and bribe in either treacherous  
hand,

Thought they to fright thee by war's awful price,  
Or silence thee by lure of paradise—  
Thee with thy glorious ancestry of sacrifice?

Forgive us, we were over-slow to scan  
The incredible cunning of the monstrous plan  
Whereby the spider State has set its web for Man;

But fallen are the scales, and now our heart  
That with thee stormed the startled Alps, takes part  
With glad and welcome aid from mint and mine and  
mart.

And, haply, on thy waves our ships may dare  
The iron shark within his stealthy lair  
Till the freed seas forgot what late was their despair.

Oh, fortunate if our torn flag be found  
Comrade of thine on some embattled ground  
Thenceforth by Garibaldi's memory made renowned.

What name in all thine epic history  
But his to summon us and trumpet thee—  
Who found his foster land what thou wert born to be!

Pillar of cloud and fire, his spirit soar'th  
Above thy eager legions pressing forth  
And cheers them on to save their brothers of the North.

O Crowned Republic, let us be of those  
Who know and conquer all the people's foes—  
Without, within—that dare the gates of Freedom  
close.

June 8, 1917.



### THE WISTFUL DAYS.

What is there wanting in the spring?  
The air is soft as yesteryear;  
The happy-nested green is here,  
And half the world is on the wing.  
The morning beckons, and like balm  
Are westward waters blue and calm.  
Yet something's wanting in the spring.

What is it wanting in the spring?  
O, April, lover to us all,  
What is so poignant in thy thrall  
When children's merry voices ring?  
What haunts us in the cooing dove  
More subtle than the speech of love,  
What nameless lack or loss of spring?

Let youth go dally with the spring.  
Call her the dear, the fair, the young;  
And all her graces ever sung  
Let him, once more rehearsing, sing.  
They know, who keep a broken tryst.  
Till something from the spring be missed  
We have not truly known the spring.

—Robert Underwood Johnson.

*Musical Courier*  
May 5, 1897

# D Paradises of a Pi

New England voice was beau-  
and sympathet-  
aspect of firm  
He was a man  
and of democ-  
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out of him by  
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the case of the  
newspapers -  
the World a  
a virtual ca

rings of gold, they shall attire themselves  
with green robes, of satin and well-spun  
silk.

"In turn they shall be offered basins  
of gold and goblets filled with the desire  
of the senses, things which delight the eye.

"Wonderful shall be their reward, admir-  
able their place of rest."

"As I listened to this promise I plucked  
from the grass one of the jewelled vases  
which decked the earth; and then I learned  
that the yellow tulip of Persia has the  
scent and color of autumn pears."

Here, you see, is no traveler intent upon  
filling a notebook with more or less in-

the quiet aban-  
fall in ruin.  
to crown the  
a halo of light

"Each ever  
Sultan Bajaze  
to his seraglio  
of the hands  
of the dust of

"Now this d  
garments and  
ing treated like  
was swept to  
Sultan's pages  
to His Majest:



WEY

E. J. C.

# Robert E. Rogers

When a considerable time elapses between a man's most active, fruitful, ~~the next and systematic~~, laborer to pursue his work, in the public service, as it believed to be in the welfare."

He was co-founder movement to make the movement, perhaps one of achievements.

## *Designated Poet Laureate of Amer*

In a word, he was an American school, more you know what I mean. His poetry, copious was of the old class, and often unintelligent poet with hardly savings. He was a man contemporary, Alden once called in his Age of American Literature.

And to sum it up by a fellow critic, "of pleasure, and who called him the Poet

He left a strong deep perhaps, since flow more rapidly place too rapidly summed perfectly and development meant to this country

# AUSTRO-GERMAN CUSTOMS UNION ROUSES EUROPE

Vienna Urges Others to Join as Answer to Protests on Plan.

## CZECHS VIOLENTLY OPPOSED

Briand Starts Inquiry Into Move  
---Curtius Sees Envoys in Drive  
for Approval.

By WHIT BURNETT.

Special Cable Dispatch to THE SUN.  
Copyright, 1881, by The New York Sun  
Foreign Service.

VIENNA, March 23.—The declaration by Germany and Austria of their willingness to create a customs agreement between themselves and invite other nations to join—thus making a sort of European union in line with Aristide Briand's idea, but with its initiative centers in central Europe, is today the most discussed





## A MADRIGAL OF ASPETOOK.

20234

Call it river or call it brook,  
Give me the shady Aspetook!  
Far-heard within the Summer hush,  
The music of its Prattling rush  
Rob not the valley of repose;  
And whether it pauses or whether it  
flows,  
It makes a never-ceasing call  
To the urchins of dreamy Merryall.

The boy in wild-grape-scented June  
Through open windows hears the  
tune,  
And, caught in the thrall of Aspe-  
took,  
For longing cannot see his book;  
His hope plays truant to his fear.  
Seasons there are for sled and ball,  
But Aspetook through all the year  
Beckons the boys of Merryall.

Past the thick refuge of the deer,  
Yet within sound of chanticleer,  
Through green-arched tunnels of de-  
light  
It breaks into the sunny air  
To greet the bathers of "Monverre";  
Then hurries round the rocks in  
flight,  
As though the world were waiting  
all  
For news of drowsy Merryall!

Some day my feet will follow down  
Its gentler current toward the sea,  
To find its merge by Milford town  
Where calms of Housatonic be.  
Today I'll mount through shade and  
gleam,  
Wade my cool way against the  
stream,  
And challenge every swirl and fall  
Of Aspetook to Merryall.

ROBERT UNDERWOOD JOHNSON.

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3 July 1938  
N.Y. Times

# SERVICES TODAY FOR DR. JOHNSON

Dr. I. H. Berg to Officiate at  
Rites in New York University  
Chapel in the Bronx

## MANY LEADERS TO ATTEND

Mayor La Guardia, Dr. Butler,  
Gov. Cross and Dr. Phelps  
Among Those on List

*OCT. 17-1937*

Distinguished representatives of the arts and of letters, public officials and educators will attend the funeral service today at 4 P. M. for Robert Underwood Johnson, poet and director of the Hall of Fame, in the chapel of New York University, University Heights, at 181st Street, the Bronx. Burial will be at 12:45 P. M. tomorrow at Stockbridge, Mass.

Dr. Irving Husted Berg, New York University chaplain and dean of the College of Arts and Pure Science, will officiate at the service. Dr. John H. Finley, editor of THE NEW YORK TIMES, a friend of Dr. Johnson, will read a poem by Alexander Pope, which Dr. Johnson requested be read at his funeral service.

Honorary pallbearers and the institutions they represent will be: Academy of Arts and Letters, Dr. Nicholas Murray Butler, Governor Wilbur L. Cross of Connecticut, Charles Downer Hazen, Dr. William Lyon Phelps, Royal Cortissoz, Herbert Adams, Archer M. Huntington and Adolph A. Weinman. National Institute of Arts and Letters, Dr. Walter Damrosch, Henry S. Canby, Arthur Train and Harrison S. Morris. New York University, Chancellor Harry Woodburn Chase and Finley J. Shepard. Among those expected to attend

the services are: Mayor La Guardia, Robert I. Aitken, Maxwell Anderson, Chester Beach, Gifford Beal, Stephen Vincent Benet, William Rose Benet, Robert Bridges, Howard Brockway, George Elmer Brown, Owen Davis, William A. Delano, John Erskine, Barry Faulkner, John Flanagan, William J. Glackens, John Gregory, Albert L. Groll, Jules Guerin, Clayton Hamilton, Brian Hooker, Philip James.

Also Carl Paul Jennewein, John C. Johansen, William Mitchell Kendall, Leon Kroll, Lee Lawrie, Ernest Lawson, Walter Lippmann, DeWitt Lockman, Hermon A. MacNeil, Paul Manship, Edward McCartan, Ernest C. Peixotto, Ernest Pool, Ernest David Roth, F. Wellington Ruckstull, Ernest Schelling, Harry Rowe Shelley, John Sloan, Eugene Speicher, Albert Sterner, Albert Stoessel, Whitney Warren, Harry W. Watrous, Irvin R. Wiles, Ezra Winter and Mahonri M. Young.

Also the Misses Cecilia Beaux, Rachel Crothers, and Edna Ferber, and Mrs. John C. Johansen and Mrs. Bessie Bonnok.

Faculty, student, alumni and administrative representatives of the university also will attend.

Dr. Johnson died on Thursday in his home at 327 Lexington Avenue. He was 84 years old.

